

REMARKS

1. Status of the claims

The format of the claim amendments are corrected in accordance to 37 CFR § 1.121, and are submitted to replace the improperly formatted "Amendment to the Claims" section of the Response to Office Action, filed October 22, 2003.

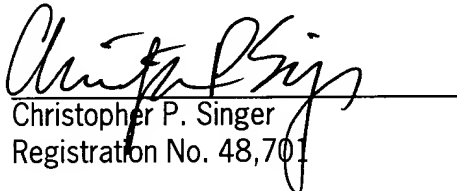
Currently amended claims 1, 6, 8, 19, and 20, and claims 2-5, 7, 9-14, and 21 are pending in the application. All claim amendments are supported by the specification as originally filed and thus do not constitute new matter.

2. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all requirements of patentability and format are fully met and, accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes it to be helpful, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney as indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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